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THE GULL
MONTHLY BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

Volume 31 San Francisco, California, April, 1949 Number 4

THE GULL

Poising, a floating mote athwart a noonday beam,
Buoyant as wind-blown ashes of some long dead dream,
Hazy, on idle pinion, a mirage dimly rare,
A faint white nebula, a shadow in the air —
Bird of the sun and storm, in dress of mottled gray,
The Gull, an evanescent spectre o'er the Bay.

San Francisco — W. G. Taffinder

Bird Census At Benicia, California

Benicia (Solano Co.), Calif. (same area as in 1933 and several subsequent years;) observers traveling together by automobile with frequent stops to canvass the marsh, waterfront and live-oak hill area along the highway between Benicia and Cordelia; these two towns being 14 miles apart; Benicia waterfront 25%, marsh 20%, open fields 15%, hills 40%. — Jan. 2nd; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear: temp. 32° to 48°; cold wind NW, 13 to 18 m.p.h.; one observor (Emerson A.) in a.m., two in p.m. Total hours, 14 (12 on foot, 2 in auto); total miles, 50 (20 on foot, 30 by auto). Western grebe, 5; great blue heron, 1; Am. egret, 4; black-crowned night heron, 4; lesser snow goose, 300 (est.); pintail, 75 shoveller, 31; canvas-back, 79; Am. golden-eye, 3; red-tailed hawk, 4; marsh hawk, 6; sparrow hawk, 22; coot, 2420 (2000 est., 420); killdeer, 18; black-bellied plover, 4; avocet, 11; willet, 1; red-backed sandpiper, 2; western sandpiper, 13; glaucous-winged gull, 10; western gull, 42; Cal. gull, 6; Bonaparte gull, 7; horned owl, 1; red-shafted flicker, 53; downy woodpecker, 1; black phoebe, 1; tree swallow, 2; Cal. jay, 15; robin, 260; varied thrush, 3; hermit thrush, 1; western bluebird, 14; mountain bluebird, 15; ruby-crowned kinglet, 8; pipit, 18; cedar waxwing, 10; loggerhead shrike, 25; Myrtle warbler, 1; Audubon warbler, 31; house sparrow, 120; meadowlark, 90; red-winged blackbird, 42; tricolored blackbird, 13; Brewer blackbird, 2415 (2000 est., 415); purple finch, 2; house finch, 28; willow goldfinch, 310; green-backed goldfinch, 3; spotted towhee, 2; savannah sparrow, 17; junco, 105; white-crowned sparrow, 90; golden-crowned sparrow, 10; song sparrow, 3. Total, 55 species: about 6777 individuals. Water birds not in usual winter abundance as the hunting season was open and a large number of hunters were on the marsh and on the bay. Count included a few water birds crippled by shot. Snow geese consisted of a small flock settled on shore of Joyce Island, 3 miles distant but easily observed through field glasses.—Marjorie M. Stoner, Emerson A. Stoner.

March Field Trip

On Sunday, March 13, fifty-three members met at Hodan's Fishing Camp in Suisun to board a boat for a seven mile trip to the Game Refuge on Joyce Island. The island is composed of marshy land with many small ponds and inlets from the wide sloughs surrounding it.

The day was sunny and mild with the sky partly overcast.

Observations were made from levees that criss-cross the area for many miles and extensive views were possible due to predominating low growth.

Dr. T. Eric Reynolds was special leader with Junea Kelly, Seth Bailey, and Harry Adamson as assistant leaders for the three groups organized on arrival.

The outstanding events of the day were the observation of many Great Blue Herons nesting in the tops of a small grove of eucalyptus trees and finding many pairs of white tailed kites on the island. The feeding habit of a pair of White-tailed Kites was vividly displayed, when the male, having caught a meadow mouse, stripped off the fur and in mid-air gave it to his mate, who after devouring a part of it, returned it to him for his bite. This was repeated several times. The claws being used rather than the beak.

Seventy-two species of birds were observed as follows:

Grebe, Eared
Grebe, Western
Grebe, Pied-billed
Pelican, White
Cormorant, Farallon
Heron, Great Blue
Egret, American
Egret, Brewster
Heron, Black-cr. Night
Bittern, American
Swan, Whistling
Goose, Canada
Goose, White-fronted
Goose, Snow
Mallard
Gadwall
Baldpate
Pintail
Teal, Green-winged
Teal, Cinnamon
Shoveller
Canvas-back
Lesser Scaup
Golden-eye, American
Bufflе-head
Duck, Ruddy
Vulture, Turkey
Kite, White-tailed
Hawk, Red-tailed
Hawk, Marsh
Hawk, Sparrow
Pheasant, Ring-n.
Rail, Virginia
Coot
Killdeer
Snipe, Wilson
Willet
Yellow-legs, Greater
Dowitcher, Long-bill
Avocet
Gull, Glaucous-winged
Gull, California
Tern, Forster
Dove, Mourning
Owl, Barn
Humming-bird, Allen
Kingfisher, Belted
Flicker, Red-shafted
Phoebe, Black
Swallow, Violet-green
Swallow, Tree
Swallow, Barn
Crow
Creeper
Wren, Bewick
Wren, Marsh
Thrush, Varied
Pipit, American
Shrike, California
Warbler, Audubon
Yellow-throat
Meadowlark, Western
Blackbird, Red-wing
Blackbird, Bicolored
Blackbird, Tricolored
Blackbird, Brewer
Finch, Cal. Purple
Finch, House
Sparrow, Savannah
Junco, Oregon
Sparrow, White-crowned
Sparrow, Song

Celia A. Paroni, Historian.

New Members

We welcome the following new members; from San Francisco, Mrs. Wm. J. Davis, Miss Mabel Delavan, Miss Carrie E. Dorset, Dr. Howard M. Engle, Dr. D. Hanson Grubb, Dr. Robt. K. Hutchings, Miss Mary C. Kinkead, Mrs. Agnes Oberland, Mr. Chas. Page, Mr. Joseph S. Thompson; from Oakland, Dr. Albert Boles, Miss Blanche B. Kuder; from Piedmont, Mrs. Lynn Bramkamp, Dr. T. I. Buckley, Mrs. Harold P. Henningsen, Mrs. O. T. McAllister, Mrs. Louise R. Oliver, Miss E. L. Rueger; from Berkeley, Miss Doris M. Brenneman, Miss Olive C. Burroughs, Miss Julia Courtney, Mrs. W. K. Dunlap, Miss Roxana Elliott, Miss Ethel E. Engebretsen, Mrs. Howard Fletcher, Mr. C. H. Fox, Mrs. M. J. Jeckell, Mrs. Gilbert N. Lewis, Miss Laura L. Nordyke, Miss Dale W. Robbins, Miss Rachel A. Weckerle; from Albany, Mr. Howard L. Cogswell; from Alameda, Seth T. Bailey; from Palo Alto, Mrs. Geo. E. Colby, Mr. Sam W. Elkins; from Ross, Mrs. Ernest G. Lion; from Redwood City, Mrs. Lionel B. ing; from Jolon, Mr. & Mrs. Allan Munson.

An Eastern Viewpoint

Nestled in the Sierra Nevada at the Sugar Bowl Lodge at Norden is a most unusual camp—unusual because adults gather here to study Natural History in God's great out of doors. Here, under an outstanding staff of trained Naturalists, the students are taken out into the field for study and observation of

plants, birds, vertebrates, invertebrates, insects and nature activities and their interrelation in the balance of Nature.

The purpose of the camp is to better acquaint the campers, and in turn, the public to the great need of conserving our natural resources, before it is too late.

Seven auto field trips and other shorter ones were enjoyed last summer, besides numerous lectures and class work in a two-weeks' session. I do not wish to give you the idea that we had all work and no play, for that would make dull campers. We swam, sang, danced, had a stunt night, good fellowship and a grand time.

I am an Easterner from Hartford, Connecticut, and I would like to cite a few new experiences that were like the frosting of a cake to me:

Standing in reverence looking at the Jeffrey, White-bark and Yellow pines in all their stately splendor.

Sitting on the bank of a rushing mountain stream watching a Water Ouzel dashing around looking for food.

Coming across the Rein Orchids growing by the hundred in swamp land.

Seeing the boulders, faults and glacial lakes of the Sierra Nevada.

Seeing the little "Picket Pins" coming out of their holes and sitting up on their hind feet. — cute little animals!

Sitting quietly in a field of columbine and seeing Rufous, Allen and Calliope Hummingbirds feeding on nectar.

Seeing a sunrise over the Sierra. It's beautiful!

Learning of the granites of the Sierra block and its lava flow.

Swimming in a mountain stream made from melting snow.

Seeing a Sage Thrasher in Mardis Valley.

Eating a good sandwich on a picnic on the banks of Donner Lake.

Seeing the sky and scintilating constellations from the base of Mt. Disney.

Seeing snow on the top of the Sierra in August.

Wondering why lichens are important in natural history.

Flushing a mountain Quail and a covey of young.

Being at the Audubon Nature Camp of California.

Perhaps you, too, will be enjoying these same things at the Camp this summer.

Edith Downey,
Curator of Education, Children's Museum.

W. Hartford, Connecticut

Observations

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

1 Pigeon Hawk (immature) Jan. 15 Dwight Way and College Ave., Berkeley; 2 Peregrine Falcons, (male and female) Jan. 22, flying over San Mateo Bridge; 1 male Cinnamon Teal 1/2 mile east of Dublin, 14 Band-tailed Pigeons, 2 male Phainopeplas, 2 Mountain Bluebirds, Arroyo Mocho, 3 Golden Eagles, circling over Devil's Hole, Livermore Hills, Feb. 27. Harry Adamson.

1 Parasitic Jaeger mouth of Carmel River, 3 immature Heermann Gulls on beach Carmel, Mar. 1; 1 immature Heermann Gull Cliff House, San Francisco, Mar. 9; Orange-crowned Warblers (Lutescent) Mar. 14, in Garden, Santa Rosa Ave., Berkeley; 2 Yellow Warblers, Mar. 17, San Pablo Reservoir, Russell H. Pray.

2 Harlequin Ducks (male and female) Mar. 16, San Pablo Reservoir. Mrs. H. K. Trousdale and Russell H. Pray.

Allen Hummingbird, Feb. 20, Rufous Hummingbird, Feb. 27, Piedmont. Mrs. Edith Nelson.

Allen Hummingbird, Feb. 26, Oakland, Ken Schulz.

Allen Hummingbirds were late arriving. By March 5 they were common in Golden Gate Park, also Rufous were present on that date. On Mar. 16 there was a small 'wave' of Allens feeding among the Manzanita flowers off Skyline Blvd. south of Round Top. 1 Calliope hummingbird on above date feeding with Allens also a flock of 35 band-tailed Pigeons. About 30 Pacific Fulmars were seen at Point Reyes Lighthouse Feb. 23. Junea W. Kelly.

Special Shore-Bird Trip

On Saturday, April 9th, to observe the shore birds in Alameda. Meet at Santa Clara and High Sts. at 9:45 a.m.

From San Francisco take 8:55 a.m., "O" bus. From Berkeley, Busses Nos. 51, 58, and 62. Direct to meeting place.

Bring lunch, binoculars and friends.

April Meeting

The 379th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on April 14th at the OAKLAND PUBLIC MUSEUM, Lake Merritt, Oak & 14th Sts. Special business meeting at 7:30 p.m. concerning change of name. Program at 8 p.m. Unusual colored motion pictures of growing plant and marine life will be shown. Full attendance is urged. No-host dinner at Zerikotes', Lake Merritt, at 6 p.m.

April Field Trip

On Sunday, April 24th, Harry Adamson will lead the field trip along Mines Road in the Arroyo Mocho, south of Livermore.

Meet at the flagpole on First St., Livermore at 9 a.m., then, south on S. Livermore Ave. and Telsa Road for 2.4 miles to Mines Road. Turn right on Mines Road, where party will bird at selected points.

Members needing transportation contact Arthur Bennett at April meeting. Those joining cars in Oakland meet at Broadway and MacArthur at 8 a.m.; those coming from San Francisco take 7:40 a.m. "E' train to end of line. Bring lunch, binoculars and friends.

Proposed Change of Name

The following resolution was presented at the March meeting and will be voted upon at the April meeting.

Whereas; —

The name "AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC" is long and cumbersome and does not identify the area in which we are located,

And whereas; —

Future allowance must be made for growth and formation of separate groups on all sides of San Francisco Bay—thus precluding the name "SAN FRANCISCO" being incorporated in our title,

Therefore be it resolved; —

That the name "AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC" be changed to read "GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY."

You are urged to give this matter your thoughtful consideration and to attend the April meeting in order to vote upon it.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

Branch of National Audubon Society

President.....Mrs. Ethel Richardson.....887 Indian Rock Ave., Berkeley 7
Corresponding Secretary.....Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....519 California St., San Francisco 4
Treasurer.....Miss Ivander MacIver.....2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4
Editor.....Miss Minnie H. Young.....2726 Prince Street, Berkeley 5

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 8:00 p. m.